

# **Camp Atterbury World War II photograph collection P003**

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February 22, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator - Photographer</b>	Moriarty, William John, 1903-1978
<b>Title</b>	Camp Atterbury World War II photograph collection
<b>Date</b>	1943
<b>Extent</b>	0.3 Cubic feet 1 index card box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Graphic materials [Box]</b>	P003

### Preferred Citation

Camp Atterbury World War II photograph collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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William John Moriarity, Sr. took the Camp Atterbury photographs. He was born November 11, 1903 in the Irish Hill area of Indianapolis, Indiana. When the United States entered World War I, he joined the U.S. Army, serving from 1918 to 1922, spending the latter half of his tour in the Philippines. When Moriarty was discharged from the Army, he returned to Indianapolis and worked as a farm hand. He married Wilma L. Fields in 1926 and took a job with the U.S. Post Office.

Moriarity joined the National Guard during the 1930s. During World War II, he was called up for service in 1941 as a master sergeant with the 38th Infantry Division. Moriarity worked as an ultra-high speed Morse code sender/receiver and was stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana during 1943 as part of the Signal Corps. He also attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant. Moriarty was later selected for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and assigned to a ten-member team (Team 16D). He also went through parachute jump school and used those skills when he and his team parachuted into France eleven days prior to D-Day, June 6, 1944. Lt. Moriarity was severely wounded in the leg in 1945 when a German V2 rocket hit a building he was in.

After World War II, Lt. Moriarity remained in the Army and became a courier. He carried sensitive documents across the globe, even making deliveries to General Dwight Eisenhower. Moriarity retired from the Army in 1951 and returned to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He died in 1978.

Source:

Biographical information courtesy of William J. Moriarty, Jr.

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## Historical Note

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Camp Atterbury was activated as a base for the U.S. Army on June 2, 1942. Four miles west of Edinburgh, Indiana, the camp comprised just over 40,351 acres from land purchased from Bartholomew, Johnson, and Brown counties. It was named in honor of General William W. Atterbury, the Director of Transportation of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during World War I, and president of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

During the Second World War, Camp Atterbury had 1,780 buildings providing housing to 44,159 officers and troops, including 499 enlisted men barracks, 40 Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQs), 23 WAC barracks, 61 prisoners-of-war (POW) barracks, 193 mess halls, 12 chapels, 5 service clubs, 3 officers clubs, 6 theaters, 4 gymnasiums, and 4 swimming pools. Wakeman General Hospital and a convalescent

center occupied 68 buildings occupying 80 acres on the base. The hospital treated more than 85,000 patients during World War II, and was one of the U.S. Army's plastic surgery centers.

Over 275,000 soldiers trained at Camp Atterbury during World War II, including the 83rd Infantry Division; 8th Detachment of Special Troops, 2nd Army; 365th Regimental Combat Team, 92nd Infantry Division; 30th Infantry Division; and 106th Infantry Division. Colonel Welton M. Modisette served as Post Commander of Camp Atterbury until June 13, 1945 and the 1560th Service Command Unit, part of the 5th Service Command, staffed Camp Atterbury from 1942 to 1946. The base hosted a stationed company from the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and around 38,000 women trained at Camp Atterbury during the war. Many WACs went to Camp Atterbury to train for three to four months as x-ray, laboratory, surgical, medical, or dental technicians at the Enlisted Medical Technicians School, part of Wakeman General Hospital.

The Camp also served as an internment camp, housing between 12,000 and 15,000 Italian and German prisoners of war. The prisoners were housed in a large compound located on the extreme western edge of camp.

Following the end of World War II, Camp Atterbury was inactivated for the first time on July 31, 1946. During the subsequent decades, the base was reactivated and inactivated as the United States' martial conflicts waxed and waned. The Indiana Military Academy moved from Fort Benjamin Harrison to Camp Atterbury in July 1965. The base became an Army National Guard Training Site on September 1, 1976 and until the 1990s, the camp served to support the Indiana National Guard, providing support through different conflicts. Today Camp Atterbury primarily provides military training and serves as a mobilization site for the U.S. military.

#### Sources:

Atterbury Muscatatuck. "History." About Us. Last updated October 7, 2015. Accessed October 9, 2015. <http://www.atterburymuscatatuck.in.ng.mil/Home/AboutUs/History.aspx>.

Brown, Clifford M. "The History of Camp Atterbury." 1981.

Goodson, Felix E. *The Indiana Guard Reserve*. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Creative Arts, 1998.

Hinds, James M. Camp Atterbury, Indiana. [Franklin, IN: Camp Atterbury?], 1985. (at the Indiana State Library: Indiana Pamphlet. ISLO 355 no. 57)

"Indiana Village and Farms to Give Way to New 55,000 Acre Army Camp." *Indianapolis Sunday Star*, February 1, 1942.

"New Hospital Pride of Camp Atterbury." *Indianapolis Star*, October, 25 1942.

"U.S. Orders Work Started on Southern Indiana Camp." *Indianapolis Times*, January 7, 1942.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection consists of 291 (and 3 copies) black and white, 3 x 5-inch photographic prints depicting life at Camp Atterbury, Indiana in the midst of World War II. The photographs were taken by William J. Moriarty, Sr., a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, while he was stationed there in 1943. The images demonstrate the daily activities of camp life and training, as well as social activities, and depict racial segregation of the regular army troops and the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

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## **Arrangement**

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This collection is arranged numerically, in order of the negative numbers assigned to them by William J. Moriarty, Sr.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from William J. Moriarty, Jr. on 1987/06/17 and 1987/10/23.

### **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

### **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2005/03 by Elizabeth M. Wilkison. Finding aid created 2005/03 by Elizabeth M. Wilkison. EAD finding aid created 2015/11/30 by Brittany Kropf.

## **Existence and Location of Copies**

Digital reproductions are available electronically in Indiana Memory: <http://digitalcollections.library.in.gov/>.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- American Red Cross.
- Gray Ladies (Organization).
- United Service Organizations (U.S.).
- United States. Army African American troops.
- United States. Army Nurse Corps.
- United States. Army Service Forces. Service Command, 5th.
- United States. Army--Chaplains.
- United States. Army--Service clubs.
- United States. Army. Infantry Division, 30th.
- United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 366th.
- United States. Army. Service Unit, 1560th.
- United States. Army. Signal Corps.
- United States. Army. Station Hospital, 317th.
- United States. Army. Women's Army Corps.

### **Genre(s)**

- Photographs

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Bartholomew County (Ind.)
- Brown County (Ind.)
- Camp Atterbury (Ind.)

- Johnson County (Ind.)
- United States--Armed Forces--Women

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Modisette, Welton Matthew
- Schricker, Henry F. (Henry Fredrick), 1883-1966

### **Subject(s)**

- African Americans--History--Indiana
- African-American soldiers
- Blacks--Segregation
- Buildings
- Dance parties
- Football
- Hand-to-hand fighting
- Indiana--History--Theater
- Journalists
- Military camps--Indiana
- Military chapels
- Military education
- Minorities
- Soldiers
- Submarines (Ships)--Japan
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945--Indiana
- World War, 1939-1945--Military life
- World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Female